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## M12 Lesson 5 Backyard Assessment Survey

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Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## Coyote Risk Assessment Backyard Survey

Coyotes have been in Los Angeles as long as we have, but as the city continues to grow and drought reduces food and water resources in natural areas, they've begun to make themselves at home in our neighborhoods. Here in Culver City, there have been a significant increase in coyote sightings in the last two years, and coyotes have been linked to 71 cat deaths in that time. However, it's not cats that are drawing coyotes to your yard. A recent survey by the National Park Service found that 75% of a coyote's diet comes from human food sources, and 55% of that is from fallen fruit, unsecured trash, and pet food and water left outdoors at night. At Loyola Marymount University, we have developed a coyote risk assessment backyard survey that will help us determine if you are at high risk of attracting a coyote to your yard and neighborhood. This will take no more than five minutes, and we will email the results to you with information on how you can better secure your yard. As a part of this survey, we are trying to understand how coyotes use backyards, so if you would like to learn more about a citizen science study where you can study coyote behavior in your backyard, please let us know and we will contact you with more information! Thank you so much for your time! By taking this survey, you are agreeing that you understand the purpose of the study and would like to participate. Would you like to proceed?

### Visual Assessment

Is the yard fenced?      Yes      No

If so, how tall?

Are there visible holes in the fence?      Yes      No

Is animal scat present?      Yes      No

If so, which type?

Is pet food present?            Yes    No

Is there a water source?        Yes    No

Is there unsecured trash?      Yes    No

Are there fruit trees?           Yes    No

If so, which type?

Is there fruit on the ground?   Yes    No

Is there a bird feeder?         Yes    No

Is there seed on the ground?   Yes    No

### Questions

Do you have a compost?        Yes    No

Do you compost meat or dairy? Yes    No

How is it covered?

Do you have a pet that is outdoors without supervision?    Yes    No

What type?

Where is your pet fed?

Have you ever seen any of the following in your backyard?

Feral cat

Raccoon

Opossum

Coyote

Rabbit

Rodent

Squirrel

Skunk

Fox